

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masuko (U.S. 4,827,511).

Claim 1, as amended, recites that an automatic gain control signal generator either fixes the gain of an IF automatic gain controller if a level, indicated by a level signal, is higher than one of a plurality of predetermined levels and lower than or equal to another one of the plurality of predetermined levels, or else changes the gain of the IF automatic gain controller. Applicants respectfully submit that Masuko fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1.

Masuko discloses an IFAGC circuit 50 which generates a signal for controlling the gain of an IF amplifier 20 in accordance with a signal output from the IF amplifier 20, and an RFAGC circuit 60 which generates a signal for controlling the gain of an RF amplifier 3 of a tuner 1 in accordance with the level of the signal output from the IFAGC circuit 50 (see Fig. 1).

In particular, Masuko discloses that the IFAGC circuit 50 generates an IFAGC DC voltage which corresponds to the level of the detected video output signal and is used to control the gain of the IF amplifier 20 (see col. 5, lines 8-10). The output of the IFAGC circuit 50 is also supplied to the RFAGC circuit 60 whereby the RFAGC circuit 60 executes an AGC delay to

make the RFAGC follow the IFAGC operation, and generates an RFAGC voltage for controlling the gain of the RF amplifier 3 (see col. 5, lines 14-18 and Fig. 1).

Thus, while Masuko discloses an IFAGC circuit 50 that outputs a signal to control the gain of an IF amplifier 20, and also outputs a signal to an RFAGC circuit 60 which controls the gain of an RF amplifier 3 in accordance with the level of the signal output from the IFAGC circuit 50, Applicants respectfully submit that there is absolutely no disclosure in Masuko of either fixing the gain of the IF amplifier, if a level, indicated by the output of the IFAGC circuit, is higher than one of a plurality of predetermined levels and lower than or equal to another one of the plurality of predetermined levels, or else changing the gain of the IF amplifier.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Masuko fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the feature of an automatic gain control signal generator that either fixes the gain of an IF automatic gain controller if a level, indicated by a level signal, is higher than one of a plurality of predetermined levels and lower than or equal to another one of the plurality of predetermined levels, or else changes the gain of the IF automatic gain controller, as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Masuko, an indication of which is kindly requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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